

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /029 W
----- 069314

R 091325Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO COMIDEASTFOR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5123

CNO

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0276

CNO & CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

FOR ADMIRAL BIGLEY FROM AMB MANHARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SHIP VISIT: MIDEASTFOR TURNOVER

REF: COMIDEASTFOR 250615 MAR 75

1. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES I WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE WELCOMED AND HAVE BEEN GLAD TO SUPPORT PROPOSED MIDEASTFOR TURNOVER HERE MAY 23-29. HOWEVER I NOW REGRETFULLY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS THAT THIS VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT THAT TIME, FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION IS BECOMING SOMEWHAT TENSE AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS WORK SLOWDOWN OR EVEN STRIKE BY LEFT-WING DOCK WORKERS UNION WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS.

B) LOCAL, THOUGH NOT NATIONAL, ELECTIONS MIGHT BE CALLED FOR EARLY JUNE, IN WHICH CASE POLITICAL INFIGHTING HERE MIGHT GET SERIOUS IN MAY DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

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C) I WOULD GREATLY PREFER ALLOW A LITTLE MORE TIME TO INTERVENE

SINCE LAST MAJOR SEVENTH FLEET CTG VISIT HERE AFTER CYCLONE.

D) WE DID HAVE TWO CONSECUTIVE MIDEASTFOR TURNOVERS HERE IN LAST HALF 1974.

2. THEREFORE SUGGEST MAY TURNOVER BE SWITCHED TO MOMBASA IF YOU AND EMBASSY NAIROBI THINK THAT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY.

3. IN ANY EVENT I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD NAVAL AND POLITICAL DIPLOMACY IF YOU ABOARD YOUR FLAGSHIP LA SALLE WOULD JOIN IN TURNOVER HERE AT SOMEWHAT LATER DATE THAN YOU NOW PROPOSE. PLEASE ADVISE. WARM REGARDS.
MANHARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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